Political Science 201
Special Topics in Political Science
Global Governance

Professor Lisa Martin
Spring 2012
Mondays 1:20-3:15
Education L155

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Office hours Mondays, 11:00-1:00

Purpose: Global governance refers to the network of international institutions and organizations that states have created to coordinate their interactions with one another. The seminar is intended to familiarize you with some of the major international organizations (IOs) that have a profound effect on patterns of international cooperation and conflict. The focus of this seminar will be both theoretical and empirical. You will learn about the origins, characteristics, and functions of IOs including the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank. My goal for this course is to provide you with an understanding of how global governance operates and major challenges to global governance, as well as tools you can use to consider new problems of global governance as they arise in the future.

Grades and requirements: Grades will be based on class participation, 5 short analyses of specific agreements establishing an IO, and a paper that specifies a research question.

1. Participation – 30%. The quality and effectiveness of a seminar depends on the efforts of its participants. Generally, be prepared to share your thoughts, critiques, and questions about the readings. The discussion questions at the end of each Hurd chapter provide a good idea of the issues you should be thinking about and prepared to discuss in class. Each week, 2 students will be responsible for introducing the discussion of the supplemental reading for that week. For this week, you should come to class prepared to summarize the main argument of the reading and to suggest discussion topics that it raises. In addition, at the end of the semester you will make a brief presentation about the research question you will discuss in your final paper.

2. Analyses of texts of IOs – 35%. At the end of each chapter of our textbook (Hurd), there are a few pages containing an excerpt of the text of an agreement establishing an IO. 5 times during the semester, you must submit a 2-3 page discussion of this agreement.
Your paper should discuss the major problems that the IO was designed to address, and how the provisions in the agreement are designed to address these problems. These papers should be submitted to me using the dropbox in learn@uw by 10:00 am the morning before the seminar.

3. Research question, literature review, and research design – 35%. Your final paper will be due on Wednesday, May 9, at noon. You can email it to me, turn a hard copy into my mailbox, or use the dropbox. This paper should identify a research question about global governance; present a literature review of work relevant to this question; and discuss how you would go about doing research to address the central question. This paper should be approximately 12 pages long. A draft of your research question is due on March 26; I will provide feedback on this question for you to use in writing the final paper.

Readings: The main textbook for this course is Ian Hurd, International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice (Cambridge University Press, 2011). This book has been ordered at the University Bookstore and also should be available through Amazon or your favorite online bookseller. Each week we also have a supplemental reading assigned. These readings will be posted on learn@uw.

Course schedule:

January 23  Introduction

January 30  Theory
    Hurd, chapters 1 and 2

February 6  The World Trade Organization
    Hurd, chapter 3

February 13  The International Monetary Fund
    Hurd, chapter 4, pp. 66-76 and 92

February 20  The World Bank
Hurd, chapter 4, pp. 77-90 and 93

February 27   The United Nations I
Hurd, chapter 5

March 5   The United Nations II
Hurd, chapter 6

March 12   The International Labor Organization
Hurd, chapter 7

March 19   The International Court of Justice
Hurd, chapter 8

March 26   The International Criminal Court
Hurd, chapter 9

***Draft of research question due (2 pages)***

April 9   Regional organizations and the European Union
Hurd, chapter 10

April 16  Conclusion  
Hurd, chapter 11

April 23, April 30, and May 7  Research presentations

May 9, noon  Final paper due